



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

****NEWS RELEASE****

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Wisconsin's NAEP science scores show solid performance

MADISON—Wisconsin students scored above the national average in the 2005 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) science assessment.

“The performance of our overall student group validates once again that Wisconsin public schools are providing a solid education,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster.

Called the Nation's Report Card, the NAEP assessments are administered to a sample of students in each state as well as the nation. In Wisconsin, 2,631 fourth-grade students and 2,610 eighth-grade students took the science exams during the six-week testing period that ended in March 2005. At both fourth- and eighth-grades Wisconsin students' scale scores were 158, nine and 11 points higher respectively than the nation. The national scale score was 149 at grade four and 147 at grade eight.

2005 NAEP Science			
Grade 4		Grade 8	
State	Nation	State	Nation
158	149	158	147

Scale scores reported by subgroups of students show the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students, English-language learners (ELL), students with disabilities, children of color, and their peers for both the state and the nation. For the most part, Wisconsin outperformed the nation, although Burmaster stressed that achievement gaps need our attention.

“We must continue our efforts to work with educators and parents, business and industry, elected officials, and local communities around our shared responsibility to educate all children and close the achievement gap,” she said.

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ATTACHMENT: Tables with additional information on science scale scores from the 2005 State-by-State National Assessment of Educational Progress Science Assessment follow.

National Assessment of Educational Progress

2005 State-by-State Science Assessment

2005 NAEP Science Average Scale Scores

Group	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	State	Nation	State	Nation
All Students	158	149	158	147
White	164	161	165	159
Black	126	128	120	123
Hispanic	138	132	133	127
Asian	148	156	153	155

NOTE: Scores for American Indian students are not reported because Wisconsin's sample size was too small.

2005 NAEP Science
Average Scale Scores by Demographic Groups

	Grade 4		
	# of State Students	State	Nation
All Students	2,631	158	149
Eligible for School Meals	842	143	135
Not Eligible	1,763	165	162
Students with Disabilities	316	138	133
No Disability	2,315	160	151
English-Language Learners	158	133	120
English Proficient	2,473	159	152
	Grade 8		
	# of State Students	State	Nation
All Students	2,610	158	147
Eligible for School Meals	653	137	130
Not Eligible	1,931	165	158
Students with Disabilities	313	124	120
No Disability	2,297	163	151
English-Language Learners	78	131	107
English Proficient	2,532	159	149